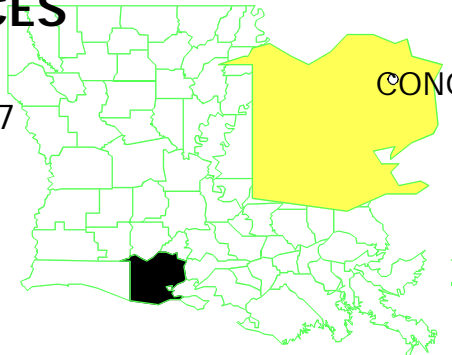


GULF COAST VACUUM SERVICES LOUISIANA

EPA ID# LAD980750137



EPA REGION 6

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 07

Vermilion Parish

Other Names:
Galveston-Houston Yard

Updated 6/3/97

Site Description

- Location:**
- Approximately 2.5 miles southwest of Abbeville, Vermilion Parish.
 - 1.5 miles west of the Vermilion River.
 - Adjacent to the south is the D.L. Mud, Inc. Superfund site.
- Population:**
- Approximately 2,600 people live within 3 miles of the site.
- Setting:**
- Approximately 2,600 people obtain drinking water and about 1,000 acres are irrigated by private wells within three miles of the site.
 - 9,000 acres are irrigated with potentially threatened surface water.
 - Site is surrounded by agricultural and residential land.
- Hydrology:**
- The site is located above the shallow sand of Abbeville Unit of the Upper Chicot aquifer.
 - The Abbeville Unit is the primary source of drinking water.
 - Surface water drainage is to the LeBoeuf Canal or to the north drainage which flows to the Coulee Galleque.

Wastes and Volumes

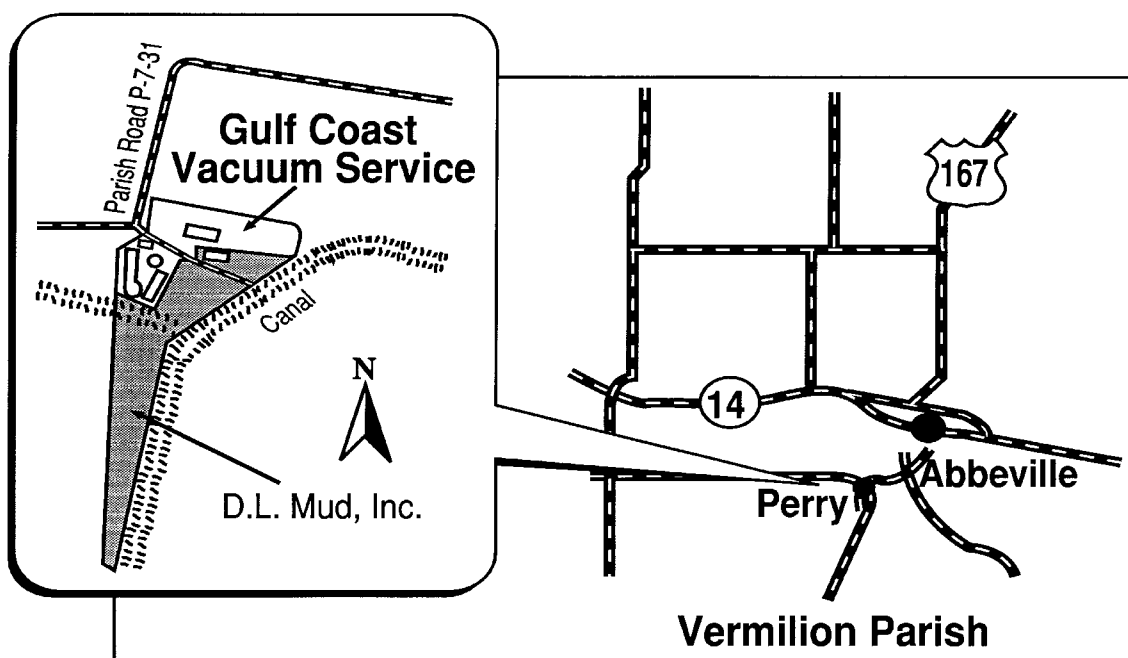
1. Principal Pollutants:
 - The contaminants in the site sludges and shallow aquifer include benzene, toluene, mercury, lead, chromium, arsenic, barium and numerous organic compounds.
 - The contaminants in the site soils included arsenic and barium.
2. Volume:
 - Estimated 15,000 cubic yards of sludge was found in 2 above-ground pits and one buried pit.
 - Estimated 43,857 gallons of sludge and liquid in the five above ground tanks.
 - 19,500 cubic yards of contaminated soil in the northeast and northwest site fields.

Site Assessment and Ranking

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Site HRS Score: 42.78
Proposed Date: 6/24/88
Final Date: 3/31/89
NPL Update: No. 7

Site Map and Diagram



The Remediation Process

Site History:

- Inactive facility, which handled wastes primarily associated from oil and gas exploration. The company operated from approximately 1969 until 1984 when it filed for bankruptcy.
- Many types of oilfield wastes were dumped in two main pits on the site which created about 15,000 cubic yards of contaminated sludge.
- Waste was dumped illegally and indiscriminately at the site and the owner/operator both falsified and destroyed records.
- Site ownership is in question; however, it is believed that because the site owner is bankrupt and taxes have not been paid on the property, the site is owned by Vermilion Parish.
- March - May 1990 and February - March 1991, EPA emergency removal funds used: to repair fence, replace warning signs, collect and analyze samples, construct holding levee, pump and treat waste water from pits.
- April 1992, due to heavy rainfall, waste water from pits was pumped and treated again.
- A total of 1,250,000 gallons were pumped and treated during emergency removal actions.

- The interim action, Operable Unit 2, was performed by 15 PRPs under a 12/11/92 Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO) and completed in January 1994. This action consolidated the two above-ground pits and covered the sludges so that rainwater could not accumulate on them and become contaminated.

Health Considerations:

- Direct contact and upstream risk; also a potential ground water threat.

Other Environmental Risks:

- Potential for contamination of Vermilion River.

Record of Decision

Signed: September 30, 1992

Amended Record of Decision

Signed: May 5, 1995

Operable Unit 1 - Final Source Action

Site Soils and Sludges

- **SELECTED REMEDY:** On-site biological treatment of organic contaminated sludges/soils; stabilization of inorganic soils.

<u>Other Remedies Considered</u>	<u>Reason Not Chosen</u>
1. No Action	Not protective
2. On site stabilization/ solidification/ disposal	Does not address organic
3. Off site incineration	Too costly for benefit received.
4. On site incineration	Selected in September 1992 ROD.

Operable Unit 2 - Interim Action

Ground Water

- **SELECTED REMEDY:** Source Control (Pit dewatering and consolidation) and monitoring.

<u>Other Remedies Considered</u>	<u>Reason Not Chosen</u>
1. No Action	Not protective
2. Continual pump and treat	Too expensive

Community Involvement

- Community Involvement Plan: Developed 11/90
- Open houses and workshops: 9/90, 7/92, 7/96
- Original Proposed Plan Fact Sheet and Public Meeting: 7/92.
- Amended Proposed Plan Fact Sheet and Public Meeting: 10/94.
- Milestone Fact Sheets: 04/91, 08/91, 7/92
- Citizens on site mailing list: 328
- Site Repository: Vermilion Parish Library in Abbeville, Louisiana

Technical Assistance Grant

- Availability Notice: 08/04/89
- Letters of Intent Received:
 - 1) 8/29/89 from Vermilion Association to Protect the Environment (VAPE).
- Final Application Received: VAPE submitted final application for grant on 6/1/90.
- Grant Award: 9/27/90; The initial three-year budget period was extended through 9/30/96, and a second extension request is now being prepared by VAPE to utilize the remaining grant funds.
- Current Status: VAPE selected Wilma Subra as the Technical Advisor on 12/31/90.

Fiscal and Program Management

- **Remedial Project Manager (EPA):** Kathleen Aisling, 214/665-8509, (6SF-LT)
- **State Contact:** Rich Johnson, 504/765-0487
- **Community Involvement Coord. (EPA):** Verne McFarland, 214/665-6617, (6SF-PO)
- **Attorney (EPA):** Keith Smith, 214/665-2157, (6SF-DL)
- **State Coordinator (EPA):** Joe Massey, 214/665-7408, (6SF-L)
- **Prime Contractor:** **Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS)** - Sverdrup Environmental
Remedial Design/Remedial Action (RD/RA) Oversight - Sverdrup Environmental/PRC EMI

Cost Recovery: PRP Lead (Enforcement)

- PRPs Identified: 400+
- Viable PRPs: 150+
- General Notice/104(e) letters issued 8/89.
- Pursue PRP lead RI/FS.
- Special Notice Letters issued 12/89.
- The 60-day RI/FS moratorium ended 2/8/90.
- RI/FS was Fund lead.
- ROD issued 9/92.
- UAO issued 12/11/92 for Interim Action. 15 PRPs complied; completed 1/94.
- Special notice issued for source control - Operable Unit (OU) 1, 2/93.
- Consent Decree (CD) for OU 1 between EPA and 15 PRPs was entered June 5, 1995.
- A de minimis settlement with 54 PRPs became effective 9/26/94. Three million dollars was recovered under the settlement and is being used for EPA activities at the site.

Present Status and Issues

- The site is currently in the Remedial Action Phase for OU1.
- The bioremediation of the first batch of organic-contaminated material is under way.

Benefits

- The completion of OU2 activities eliminated the threat of overflow of accumulated rainwater contaminated by the sludge pits, thereby reducing the direct contact threat to nearby residents and the threat to the local drinking water supplies.
- Remedial Design activities, including treatability studies were completed in early 1997 and the Remedial Action began June 3, 1997. If the site is not cleaned-up, it will continue to act as a source of contamination of the shallow aquifer used for both drinking water and irrigation in the area.